

Message Text

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65-62

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1398

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 14978 (B) BEIRUT 14806 (C) BEIRUT 1387

1. WFP REP MIDANI, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ASSISTANT KAMEL TAKI, WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE VISIT TO EMBASSY WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY DECEMBER. IN INTERVENING PERIOD MIDANI HAS SPENT TIME IN SYRIA AND WAS IN ROME AND UNABLE RETURN TO BEIRUT DURING WORST OF FIGHTING.

2. MIDANI CONFIRMED THAT WFP IS MOVING AHEAD WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM, THAT A SHIP IS IN BEIRUT PORT WITH CHEESE FROM DENMARK, AND THAT DISTRIBUTION WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS AT LEAST THREE COMMODITIES ARE ON HAND. FUNDING AND COMMODITY CONTENT FOR THIS FIRST THREE MONTH PHASE REMAIN BASICALLY AS REPORTED PARA SIX OF REF A ALTHOUGH MIDANI USED THE SLIGHTLY HIGHER FIGURE OF \$ DOL 3.4 MILLION.

3. RECENT WFP DECISION TO RAISE TOTAL FUNDING OF PROGRAM TO DOLS 10 MILLION IS AIMED AT TRAGET FIGURE OF 350,000 PEOPLE. COMMODITIES WILL INCLUDE 20,600 MT CHEESE FROM DENMARK, 1,728 MT OF DRY MILK AND 1,152 MT EDIBLE OIL FROM COMMON MARKET AND 576 MT MEAT FROM CANADA.

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4. DISTRIBUTION WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTERIAL

COMMITTEE UNDER MINSTER OSSEIRAN WHICH EMBASSY HAS MENTIONED IN NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CABLES ON ICRC AND UNHCR ACTIVITIES. THE ARMY IS TO HELP WITH UNLOADING, TRANSPORTING AND PROTECTING ARRIVING CARGOS. WAREHOUSE SPACE AT AIRPORT HAS BEEN RENTED FROM KUWAIT AIRWAYS.

5. ONE NEW THING WHICH MIDANI MENTIONED WAS THE BRINGING TO LEBANON, AS SOON AS SECURITY PERMITS, OF A TEAM OF UN TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM SEVERAL UN AGENCIES TO LOOK FOR SUITABLE PROJECTS FOR WFP TO UNDERTAKE. MIDANI SAID THE REGULAR WFP PROJECTS IN LEBANON WERE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED, BUT HE INDICATED THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM WAS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW IT TO BE CONVERTED FROM STRAIGHT GRANT TO FOOD-FOR-WORK AT SAME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

6. WITH BEIRUT PORT SLOWLY OPENING, WFP HAS ABANDONED IDEA OF BRINGING COMMODITIES IN THROUGH SYRIA. HE ADMITTED WFP WOULD HAVE TYPE OF PROBLEM WITH THIS ROUTING WHICH EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN PARA FIVE REFTEL B.
LAMBRAKIS

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